CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 15 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF VENEZUELA TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE PELINDABA TREATY ON 11 APRIL 1996

The Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to attach a statement made by the Government of Venezuela on the occasion of the signing on 11 April 1996 of the Pelindaba Treaty, an instrument establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa.

The Permanent Mission of Venezuela would be very grateful to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament if it would arrange for this statement to be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Government of Venezuela expresses its satisfaction at the signing, on 11 April 1996, of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty), a historic event that will help to strengthen the international nuclear weapon non-proliferation regime, as a result of the joint efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

The Government of Venezuela, recognizing that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, underpinned by agreements voluntarily arrived at by the States concerned, constitutes an effective measure of disarmament, is persuaded that this legal instrument will prove conducive to regional stability and the strengthening of international peace and security.

In that regard, the Government expresses the wish that the States parties will take the necessary steps to ensure that the Treaty enters into force promptly, complementing the efforts made by Latin America and the Caribbean with the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and by the Association of South-East Asian Nations with the signing of the Treaty of Bangkok on 15 December 1995, serving as an incentive for the inclusion of other regions of the world in the system of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Caracas, 15 April 1996